WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Amended) A method for the treatment of a patient with hepatic encephalopathy (HE) characterized by hyperammonemia ~~and/or constipation~~, comprising orally administering to the patient a liquid drink composition comprising polyethylene glycol (PEG) in an amount sufficient to reduce ammonia plasma levels ~~and/or alleviate constipation~~ in the patient.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition consists essentially of PEG.

3. (Amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the composition is administered in single dosages each ~~containing~~ comprising from about 5 to 35 gm of dry PEG dissolved in ~~water~~ aqueous liquid.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further ~~includes~~ comprises lactulose.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.15 to 3.5 parts by weight PEG to 1 part lactulose.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.5 to 3 parts by weight PEG to 1 part by weight lactulose.

7. (Amended) The method of claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein the composition is administered in single dosages each ~~containing~~ comprising from about 5 to 35 gm of dry PEG dissolved in ~~water~~ aqueous liquid.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein each dosage further ~~contains~~ comprises from about 10 to 30 gm of dry lactulose dissolved in ~~water~~ aqueous liquid.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein each dosage ~~contains~~ comprises from 10 to 20 gm PEG and 10 to 20 gm lactulose.

10. (Amended) A composition for the treatment of HE comprising ~~from about 0.15 to 3.5 parts by weight~~ PEG ~~to 1 part~~ and lactulose.

11. (Amended) The composition of claim 10 comprising from about ~~0.5 to 3~~ 0.15 to 3.5 parts by weight PEG to 1 part by weight lactulose.

12. (Original) A single dosage composition for the treatment of HE comprising from about 5 to 35 gm of PEG.

13. (Original) The single dosage composition of claim 12, further comprising from about 10 to 30 gm of lactulose.

14. (Original) The single dosage composition of claim 13, comprising from about 10 to 20 gm PEG and 10 to 20 gm lactulose.

15. (Amended) A method ~~or composition~~ according to claim 1, wherein the PEG is solid at room temperature.

16. (Amended) A method ~~or composition~~ according to claim 4, wherein the PEG is solid at room temperature.

17. (Amended) A ~~method or~~ composition according to claim 10, wherein the PEG is solid at room temperature.

18. (Amended) A ~~method or~~ composition according to claim 12, wherein the PEG is solid at room temperature.

19. (Amended) A ~~method or~~ composition according to claim ~~4~~ 10, wherein the lactulose and PEG are each a dry powder.

20. (Amended) A ~~method or~~ composition according to claim ~~10~~ 13, wherein the lactulose and PEG are each a dry powder.

21. (Amended) A ~~method or~~ composition according to claim ~~13~~ 14, wherein the lactulose and PEG are each a dry powder.

22. (Amended) A method ~~or composition~~ according to claim 1, wherein the composition is free of added electrolytes.

23. (Amended) A method ~~or composition~~ according to claim 4, wherein the composition is free of added electrolytes.

24. (Amended) A ~~method or~~ composition according to claim 10, wherein the composition is free of added electrolytes.

25. (Amended) A ~~method or~~ composition according to claim 12, wherein the composition is free of added electrolytes.

26. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the composition is administered on a continuing basis in at least one single dosage per day.

27. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the composition is administered on a continuing basis in at least one single dosage per day.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the composition is administered in an amount and frequency sufficient to reduce plasma ammonia to clinically-acceptable levels and to maintain these levels.

29. (New) The method of claims 27, wherein the composition is administered in an amount and frequency sufficient to reduce plasma ammonia to clinically-acceptable levels and to maintain these levels.

30. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of the composition administered is sufficient to alleviate constipation in the patient.

31. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the amount of the composition administered is sufficient to alleviate constipation in the patient.

32. (New) A method for the treatment of a patient with HE characterized by ammonemia and constipation, comprising orally administering to the patient a liquid drink composition comprising PEG or PEG and lactulose in an amount and frequency sufficient to alleviate constipation.